adequate protection to farmers from imports, when international prices fall sharply.

Recommend measures for the credit, knowledge, skill, technological and marketing empowerment of women, taking into consideration the increasing feminization of agriculture and the proposed conferment of right to land ownership.

Suggest methods of empowering male and female members of elected local bodies to discharge effectively their role in conserving and improving the ecological foundations for sustainable agriculture, like hand, agro-biodiversity and the atmosphere, with priority attention to irrigation water.

Recently an Agriculture Coordination Committee has also been constituted under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister to evolve a systematic approach to policy formulation on issues pertaining to agriculture and to promote iinter-sectoral and inter- departmental coordination in planning and implementation. In addition, a Sub-Committee of National Development Council on "Agriculture and Related Issues" under the Chairmanship of Union Agriculture Minister is already in place to draw implementable action plans for the development of agriculture sector.

Revising Support Price for Agricultural Produces

3039. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the agriculture sector in the country is passing through an acute phase;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether with a view to providing relief to the farmers, the Central Government propose to revise the support price for the agricultural produce; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the share of agriculture sector (i.e. agriculture, forestry and fishery) in India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant (1999- 00) prices stands at 19.7% in 2005-06 compared to 24.4% in

2001-02. The growth rate of the sector in 2005-06 is 3.9% against 0.7% in 2004-05, 10% in 2003-04,(-) 6.9% in 2002-03 and 6.2% in 2001-02.

(c)and (d) The Government decides on the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of the State Governments and other important relevant factors. The MSPs of kharif crops of 2006-07 season, which have been recently announced by the Government, are given below:

(Rs.per quintal)

Crop	MSP
Paddy common	580
Grade 'A'	610
Jowar Hybrid	540
Maldandi	555
Bajra	540
Maize	540
Ragi	540
Arhar (Tur)	1410
Moong	1520
Urad	1520
Cotton Medium Staple	1770
Long Staple	1990
Groundnut-in-shell	1520
Sunflowerseed	1500
Soyabean Black	900
yellow	1020
Sesamum	1560
Nigerseed	1220